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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/762,879

Applicant(s)

HOLLAND ET AL.

Examiner

Jeffrey R. Swearingen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 October 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SI/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Specification

2. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: The specification fails to define a tangible computer readable medium, as newly claimed in claim 18. Based on the language present in the specification, Applicant should consider a "computer readable storage medium", which does have antecedent support in the specification and fulfills the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Handsaker et al. (US 7,251,776).

5. In regard to claims 1, 12, 18, Handsaker disclosed:

designating identification of users with respective sections of the data structure wherein each of the respective sections is comprised of a plurality of independently accessible storage areas; column 10 lines 7-34 discloses creation of a parameterized workbook for a spreadsheet, where the outputs of the workbook are defined based on the parameter of the user

enabling each of the users access to the storage areas in the respective sections of the data structure designated by each users' respective identification, said access permitted to each of the users

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responsive to the designating identification of the users with the respective sections of the data structures; and column 10, lines 23-35 discloses the parameterized workbook for the spreadsheet customizes access and output for the particular user based on their properties or credentials as explained in column 9, lines 30-46

preventing any of said users from having access to any of said sections which have not been designated with identification of said any of said users. Column 9, lines 59-60 and 64-65 disclose the use of filters to limit what a user can see to what they are authorized to see based on their roles or hierarchies.

6. In regard to claim 2, Handsaker disclosed:

said step of designating includes entering the identification into respective linking sections of the data structure, each of the linking sections being associated with a portion of the sections of the data structure. Column 10, lines 23-35 discloses the parameterized workbook, which receives inputs of parameters for the users as explained in column 9, lines 1-46, where lines 30-46 specifically state the user input categories.

7. In regard to claim 3, Handsaker disclosed:

said step of designating includes associating the identification to the respective sections of the data structure from another data structure. Column 9, lines 47-65

8. In regard to claim 4

9. In regard to claims 5 and 14, Handsaker disclosed:

creating, by one of the users, a password, to limit access to the sections of the data structure associated with the one user's identification to the one user and others having access rights to the sections of the data structure associated with the one user's identification. Column 9, line 35

10. In regard to claims 6, 15, Handsaker disclosed:

reassigning, by one of the users, access rights to at least a portion of the sections of the data structure associated with the one user's identification to another user. Column 9, lines 1-13 disclosed a user can associate parameters with the workbook.

11. In regard to claims 7, 16, Handsaker disclosed:

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said step of enabling includes enabling at least one of editing the respective sections by users corresponding to the designated identification, and viewing the respective sections by users corresponding to the designated identification. column 10, lines 23-35 discloses the parameterized workbook for the spreadsheet customizes access and output for the particular user based on their properties or credentials as explained in column 9, lines 30-46

12. In regard to claims 8, 17, Handsaker disclosed:

designating identification of users with respective data cells of a spreadsheet included in the data structure. Handsaker associates parameters with results viewable by a users. Column 8, lines 4-50; column 10, lines 7-34. Column 8, lines 51-52 state the results can be limited to a single cell which is filtered based on the parameters defined in the workbook.

13. In regard to claim 9, Handsaker disclosed:

said step of designating includes selecting at least one section in the data structure and entering an identification into a linking section of the data structure to link the at least one selected section with a user associated with the entered identification, and said step of enabling includes enabling access to the at least one selected section to the user associated with the entered identification. Column 10 lines 7-34 discloses creation of a parameterized workbook for a spreadsheet, where the outputs of the workbook are defined based on the parameter of the user. Column 10, lines 23-35 discloses the parameterized workbook for the spreadsheet customizes access and output for the particular user based on their properties or credentials as explained in column 9, lines 30-46

14. In regard to claim 10, Handsaker disclosed:

said step of selecting included in said step of designating includes selecting the at least one section as a data cell in a spreadsheet, and said step of enabling includes enabling access to the data cell to the user associated with the entered identification. Handsaker associates parameters with results viewable by a users. Column 8, lines 4-50; column 10, lines 7-34. Column 8, lines 51-52 state the results can be limited to a single cell which is filtered based on the parameters defined in the workbook.

15. In regard to claim 11, Handsaker disclosed:

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said step of selecting includes at least one of highlighting the data cell and clicking on the data cell. Handsaker, Figures 4-5 disclose standard Windows views of a spreadsheet, where cells may be highlighted or clicked on.

16. In regard to claim 19, Handsaker disclosed:

associating a first cell with a first section of the data structure comprised of independently accessible storage areas; Handsaker associates parameters with results viewable by a users. Column 8, lines 4-50; column 10, lines 7-34. Column 8, lines 51-52 state the results can be limited to a single cell which is filtered based on the parameters defined in the workbook.

associating a second cell with a second section of the data structure; Column 8, lines 51-52 as above

enabling a first user to view data contained in only the first section of the data structure by entering a first identification associated with the first user in the first cell; and Column 9, lines 59-60 and 64-65 disclose the use of filters to limit what a user can see to what they are authorized to see based on their roles or hierarchies.

enabling a second user to view data contained in only the second section of the data structure by entering a second identification associated with the second user in the second cell; and Column 9, lines 59-60 and 64-65 disclose the use of filters to limit what a user can see to what they are authorized to see based on their roles or hierarchies.

preventing the first user from accessing data in the second section; and Column 9, lines 59-60 and 64-65 disclose the use of filters to limit what a user can see to what they are authorized to see based on their roles or hierarchies.

preventing the second user from accessing data in the first section. Column 9, lines 59-60 and 64-65 disclose the use of filters to limit what a user can see to what they are authorized to see based on their roles or hierarchies.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

17. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

18. Claims 4 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Handsaker in view of Austin-Lane et al. (US 7,363,345).

19. In regard to claims 4 and 13, Handsaker is applied as in claims 1 and 12. Handsaker failed to disclose email notification of access to a document. Austin-Lane disclosed an electronic delivery system which utilized a spreadsheet to convey information as a "delivery mechanism". Austin-Lane, column 4, line 50. A notification is delivered by Austin-Lane based on a triggering event. Austin-Lane, column 6, lines 1-32. The notification in Austin-Lane is email. Austin-Lane, column 12, line 7. The triggering events in Austin-Lane detect changes such as modifications to a web page. Austin-Lane, column 6, line 23. Handsaker allowed for the export of the output of the spreadsheet to HTML format, which is how web pages are displayed. Handsaker, column 6, lines 16-26. Because Handsaker supported access control of a spreadsheet, and because Handsaker allowed for the access control to involve spreadsheet output in HTML (web page) format, and because Austin-Lane detected changes in web page format and sent email notifications to the subscriber, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use the Austin-Lane email notification system with the Handsaker spreadsheet control system.

Conclusion

20. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

21. Curbow et al. US 5,669,005

22. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH

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shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey R. Swearingen whose telephone number is (571)272-3921. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Larry Donaghue can be reached on 571-272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jeffrey R. Swearingen
Examiner
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Examiner, Art Unit 2445

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